

List of Current Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 – 9 (Cancelled).

10. (New) A field device for monitoring and/or determining a process variable of a medium, wherein the process variable is preferably a fill level, viscosity or density of the medium, comprising:

an oscillatable unit, a driving/receiving unit, which excites said oscillatable unit to oscillate, or which receives oscillations of said oscillatable unit, as the case may be; and

a control/evaluation unit, which controls the oscillations of said oscillatable unit, or which evaluates the oscillations of said oscillatable unit, as the case may be, wherein:

said control/evaluation unit produces an accretion alarm, when the oscillation frequency (f) of the oscillations of said oscillatable unit falls below an adjustable limit value (G ; G_{Minimum} ; G_{Maximum}); and

said limit value (G ; G_{Minimum} ; G_{Maximum}) is determinable and/or calculable at least from measured and/or calculated dependencies of the oscillation frequency (f) on process conditions and/or on the process variable to be monitored and/or determined.

11. (New) The field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

the process variable is fill level; and

said limit value (G) is determinable and/or calculable as a function of the use of the field device, whether as a minimum switch (G_{Minimum}) or as a maximum switch (G_{Maximum}).

12. (New) The field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

said limit value (G ; G_{Minimum} ; G_{Maximum}) is determinable and/or calculable from the smallest oscillation frequency (f) as a function of the maximum with reference to the field device, allowable process conditions and/or as a function of the maximum, with reference to the field device and/or with reference to the application allowable process variable to be monitored and/or determined.

13. (New) The field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

said limit value (G ; G_{Minimum} ; G_{Maximum}) is determinable and/or calculable taking into consideration a maximum allowable accretion, or a frequency change associated with the maximum allowable accretion.

14. (New) The field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

the process conditions involve temperature and/or pressure and/or density and/or viscosity and/or fill level of the medium.

15. (New) The field device as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

a review unit which produces an accretion alarm independently of said control/evaluation unit, when the oscillation frequency (f) of said oscillations of said oscillatable unit falls below an adjustable limit value (G ; G_{Minimum} ; G_{Maximum}).

16. (New) The field device as claimed in claim 10, wherein:

said control/evaluation unit produces a "free" report, when the oscillation frequency (f) of the oscillations of said oscillatable unit exceed an adjustable over-value (O); and

the over-value (O) is determinable and/or calculable from measured and/or calculated dependencies of the oscillation frequency (f) on the process variable to be determined and/or to be monitored.

17. (New) The field device as claimed in claim 16, wherein:

the over-value (O) is determinable and/or calculable from a greatest oscillation frequency (f) as a function of corresponding maximum, in reference to the field device, allowable process conditions and as a function of said oscillatable unit oscillating uncovered.

18. (New) The field device as claimed in claim 16, wherein:

the over-value (O) is determinable and/or calculable taking into consideration a maximum allowable accretion, or a frequency change associated with the maximum allowable accretion.